

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 12411 260955Z

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: BIODATA ON HARUHISA KOBAYASHI, NEW JAPANESE AMBASSADOR
TO NEPAL

1. ON AUGUST 21, 1973 GOJ APPOINTED HARUHISA KOBAYASHI AS
AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL. CAREER DIPLOMAT, KOBAYASHI HAD SERVED AS
CONSUL GENERAL IN CALCUTTA FROM AUGUST 1970 TO JANUARY 1972. HE
HAD SINCE BEEN IN TOKYO AWAITING ASSIGNMENT.

2. BORN SEPTEMBER 26, 1918, KOBAYASHI GRADUATED FROM TOKYO
UNIVERSITY LAW FACULTY AND ENTERED MOFA
IN 1942. FROM LATE 1942
UNTIL 1945 HE WAS ASSIGNED TO POLITICAL AFFAIRS BUREAU. LIKE
MANY OTHER DIPLOMATS, HE WAS DETAILED TO CENTRAL LIAISON OFFICE
DURING U.S. OCCUPATION OF JAPAN. IN THAT PERIOD (1945-1952), HE
SERVED IN A VARIETY OF POSITIONS WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES
IN THE ECONOMIC AREA. RETURNING TO MOFA IN 1952, HE RECEIVED
HIS FIRST OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT AS CONSUL IN SAN FRANCISCO
(1952-1954).

3. FROM 1954 TO 1958 KOBAYASHI WORKED IN ASIAN AFFAIRS
BUREAU, WITH CONCURRENT DUTIES IN MOFA SECRETARIAT DURING
LATTER PART OF THAT PERIOD. IN 1959 HE BECAME MIDDLE EAST
DIVISION HEAD IN ECONOMIC BUREAU, POSITION HE HELD UNTIL POSTED
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 12411 260955Z

TO INDIA AS FIRST SECRETARY IN 1962. HE WAS PROMOTED TO

ECONOMIC COUNSELOR IN 1963 AND REMAINED IN INDIA, WITH CONCURRENT ASSIGNMENT TO NEPAL, UNTIL 1965. FROM 1965 TO 1967 HE WAS POSTED TO OECD IN PARIS AND IN 1967-1968 WAS COUNSELOR IN MOFA ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU. IN 1967 HE WAS ALSO GOJ DELEGATE TO COLOMBO PLAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN RANGOON. IN 1968, KOBAYASHI WAS SHIFTED TO ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU AS COUNSELOR WITH CONCURRENT DUTIES IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUREAU. FROM AUGUST 1970 TO JANUARY 1972, HE WAS JAPANESE CONSUL GENERAL IN CALCUTTA. KOBAYASHI WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SELECTED AS AMBASSADOR TO SUDAN, BUT FOR UNKNOWN REASONS NEVER ASSUMED DUTIES.

4. ACCORDING TO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA, KOBAYASHI MAINTAINED EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS THERE AND WAS WELL REGARDED IN LOCAL COMMUNITY. HE AND HIS WIFE, WAKANA (56), WERE DESCRIBED AS PLEASANT, FRIENDLY AND HOSPITABLE, ALTHOUGH THEIR EFFECTIVENESS WAS RETARDED BY LIMITED ENGLISH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY. HIS UNDERSTANDING OF ENGLISH WAS EXTENSIVE, BUT STRONG ACCENT MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR MOST PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND HIM. HIS PROBLEM WAS ACCENTUATED BY THROAT AILMENT WHICH CAUSED HIM TO SPEAK IN HUSKY WHISPER. REPORTEDLY HE SUBSEQUENTLY UNDERWENT SUCCESSFUL THROAT OPERATION IN TOKYO.

5. KOBAYASHI AND WIFE HAVE 19-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, AKAGI, WHO ACCOMPANIED THEM IN CALCUTTA. MRS. KOBAYASHI IS ACCOMPLISHED PIANIST AND DAUGHTER PLAYS GUITAR.
SHOESMITH

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